throughout the country and organising science activities for children.

(c) Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), through its network of 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country ensure effective transfer of the results of R&D to agriculture, alongwith agriculture universities. This includes demonstration of technologies to farmers, training and on-farm testing of technologies on farmers' fields.

To ensure that the results of research are transferred to industry, the steps taken include assignment of successfully completed projects to National Research and Development Corporation (NRDC) for technology transfer to industries, development of linkages between research establishments and industries, and through S&T entrepreneurship development programmes. A Technology Development Board has been set up in 1996 under Department of Science & Technology to provide financial assistance to the industrial concerns attempting commercial application of technologies, both indigenous and imported.

Intellectual Property Rights

1371. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the report published in the Indian Express dated 22nd May, 1997 captioned, "Scientists see a threat in Wisner remark";

(b) If so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the warning by the US Ambassador, Frank Wisner that cooperation between Indian and American scientists could be jeopardised unless India tightened its intellectual property rights (IPR) regime; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are some differences on the intellectual property rights which have had an impact on efforts to work out a new science and technology agreement between India and the USA. Cooperation in science and technology between the two countries has been an ongoing process through last four decades, primarily at the level of scientific agencies, and also under the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Science & Technology. This cooperation continues. Indian position on intellectual property rights, based on the social and economic requirements of the country, is known to the US side.

New Steel Plants during the Ninth Five Year Plan

1372. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some new public sector big/medium/small steel plants in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, plant-wise;

(d) the criteria for selection of any site in the State;

(e) the quantity of steel likely to be increased by setting up any new steel plant alongwith period thereof; and

(f) the number of pending applications for setting up of new steel plants particularly from North Eastern States and by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (e) According to the New Industrial